

Interview with Horatio "Ray" Fitch (HF)
Date of Interview: January 9, 1985
Interviewers: Mell Busch (MB) and Ted Schmidt (TS)
Location: Fitch Cabin in Allenspark, Colorado

Begin Side 1

MB This is Wednesday, January 9, 1985. I'm Mel Busch of the Estes Park Area Historical Museum, and Ted Schmidt and myself will be talking with Horatio Fitch of Allenspark, Colorado. Mr. Fitch was a member of the 1924 Summer Olympics Team.

HF This was in '51 when we fixed the--built the cabin. It was just a two-acre plot here...and his sons had a sawmill. Now, these are actually logs here. And I came out at Easter time of '51. My wife talked me into what we did. We had a big house back in Champaign. She said, "This is too expensive for us." And it probably was. So, she said, "Let's build a small house and then get a cabin in Estes Park." And she talked me into it. We had two kids. At that time they were eight or ten years old, something like that. She said that the kids ought to get out of Illinois. See, I was teaching at the University of Illinois, and they ought to get out in the summer time. The truth was she was from Pueblo originally. She didn't want to go back to Pueblo, but she wanted to go to Colorado. So, she talked me into it, and we built this house.

I came out at Easter time. She said, "You go out and pick out a place, pick out a cabin somewhere. We had several real estate people. I had several real estate people come up from Estes Park, but frankly I don't like Estes Park. I never have. It's too touristy. So, somebody told me that Sig Wagner--have you heard of him? Sig Wagner had just laid out this place here. It had roads and two-acre lots before the state said you had to have certain-sized lots. He laid it out in two acres, which as far as I was concerned was fine because in summer on a dark night I could see the lights of the next cabin if they were there. However, they're not there hardly at all; so, I'm just about a loner, so to speak, here. Well, I came out, and somebody referred me to Sig Wagner. I'll tell you who it was--old man Ramey, whom you probably recall.

MB Yes.

HF I don't know that I met his son at that time. Is his son still selling real estate?

MB I think so.

HF I think maybe he is. Maybe he died a few years ago. A peculiar thing is when my wife died in '72, they showed me an empty site. I don't like cremation...although I think it's fine for those who do. My wife wanted to be donated to a hospital or medical school, ...but I didn't like the idea of medical students saying, "Oh, she ..., and so I decided to go ahead and buy a lot in a cemetery in Longmont. Say, I

*For the purpose of indicating unclear passages that could not be transcribed, ellipses (...) have been used throughout this manuscript.

HF understand Estes Park is trying to get a cemetery.

MB They've been talking about it, different ones.

HF Well, actually, I don't know if--oh, it would be used all right, but it doesn't make sense to have to go to Longmont all the time. Well, she died in the Longmont Hospital. The first thing they asked me is, "Whom do you want to be your undertaker?" I didn't know from nothing, and I thought about it afterward that when I mentioned one, I detailed an undertaker to go ahead. They inject something into the body so that medical school can't use it any longer. At least that was so fourteen years ago--twelve years ago.

Anyway, we went down there, and when I went out to the lot, the lot we bought is right next to John Ramey's lot. The man who projected this sale here is buried right next--where I'm buried now--because my name's down there! It's true, but there's a blank space for the date.

TS You're going to be linked to him forever! Up here and down there, too!

HF Well, anyway, the point was that Sig Wagner said that he could arrange to build a house here if I'd draw the plans, and he'd have it ready for us to move in the Fourth of July. Now, that was Easter time.

The house that we built was just this part. That was the outside wall there. And so, we came out the Fourth of July. We found there was just a concrete foundation in a hurry, and we spent all summer--our boy was eight or nine years old, and our girl could help. And we got the thing, so we moved in Labor Day--about the time that we had to go back. We moved in, and there was absolutely nothing except the log walls. Of course, the logs shrank the first year; and so, the next year we had to caulk all around. So, everything you see in here except those eaves up there, I did myself.

MB You did a great job on it.

HF Well, I think it looks pretty nice. Of course, as I told the people back home, "I built a log cabin out there, and every year since then I've been building it again."

TS Did you have the attic finished, too, when you built it?

HF No. Actually, the original cabin went straight up to the ridge pole. See, we had no heating. That (fireplace) was the only heating we had except for an electric heater that my wife would put in the bathroom when she wanted to take a bath.

TS Yes.

HF That was all. Some people put in a cooking stove, which is a wood stove. But my wife thought it was much easier to put an electric stove in there, which she did. Everything was electric in here because

HF we never tried to consider natural gas here. I put in an electric hot water heater from Sears Roebuck.

We did have a second floor. At that time we put in a partition from the ridge pole down because I wanted one room for the girl and the other room for the boy, which seemed to be the easiest thing, except if you're tall enough. The kids were short enough; but if you were tall enough, you touched the ceiling all the time.

TS Even up at the ridge pole?

HF Oh, no, not at the ridge pole.

TS But most of the room.

HF The bed was under the eaves, and she had a heck of a time trying to make a bed.

TS Guaranteed a headache!

HF Yes.

TS When did you add on the rest of the house?

HF Maybe I told you this one time. I was due to retire in '69. The University retires you. You sign the last contract when you're sixty-eight; and when you're sixty-nine, unless you're a special person, which I wasn't, you are out. You were just automatically retired. So, about 1967 we decided to--my wife decided that we'd better retire anywhere in the country, as long as it was Colorado. I thought it would be very nice to retire right back there where I'd already spent forty years of my life, and she thought it would be nice to retire in Colorado. Of course, you understand who won!

MB And you're still here.

HF Actually, after I did retire here, I was glad I did. Sometimes at that time, I didn't say so. I thought it was a foolish idea because I had an idea that the snow would be about that deep up here. How would we get around? It would be terrible. But in '67 we first decided that the thing to do would be to buy a house in Longmont and use this for summer instead of a permanent place, not try to winterize it at all. So, I bought a house on Gay Street. At least, I put the down payment down. And, then, I'm glad that the thing fell through because I don't think I'd like to live on Gay Street.

MB The name has changed in meaning.

HF At that time it didn't mean anything except there was a book--have you heard of Robert Horner's On Gay Street?

MB No.

HF It was a book in the 1920's or something. I don't know. My sister had it. Anyway, the real estate dealer called me up and said, "I've got to return your down payment. I thought you were going to pay the whole thing." But at that time IBM was getting more people, and he said a fellow from IBM came in, and he had spot cash for the whole thing. So, that fell through. Dorothy and I talked it over, and we said, "Well, probably it wouldn't cost any more to winterize this place than it would to buy a house down there. We'll see if we can live here."

See, there was no furnace here and no place for a furnace and no water. Sig Wagner has had a very good spring up--about a half mile up the road, here by the west side of the road. The pipe is still there, but that's all there is. He served all these cabins around here; and then, people began to dig their own wells because the pipe was on top the surface of the ground, and it would--

TS Yeah, it would freeze.

HF And it would freeze up Labor Day. We automatically shut the thing off Labor Day, and we automatically opened it Memorial Day. If you were here any time in the winter or in the fall, you just couldn't have any water.

MB You could melt snow.

HF Yes, that's true! So, more and more people began putting in wells. Finally, I think, we and one or two others--he had about twenty lots around here that he was serving, but there were only maybe three of us who thought that we would not bother next year. If there was no show of water, get a well. So, we didn't have any trouble with the little well about sixty-five feet down. I had water. He said, "I don't think you'd be satisfied with that. It may not go completely dry, but he talked me into ten more feet, which I'm glad I did. And we have never had the slightest bit of trouble with our water. It comes in--see, in the new part. We put a basement in where we could put a furnace, and there's nothing in the basement except junk, the water pump, and the furnace. When we came back from Illinois and when I came back from Bloomington, we had a heavy wind coming up. I said, "I hope it doesn't blow that pilot light out!"

TS Yeah!

HF Got there, and sure enough it had! It was still warm. The house--see where the thermostat sets in the ...?

TS Yes.

HF Well, when we got here it was 45, so apparently it had not been blown off very long. I was very glad that Bonnie could do the job. I had done it before. That's not the first time the pilot's blown out, but I have trouble seeing down in there. So, I was glad she was here. That's the story of the house.

MB It feels very, very comfortable here.

HF Yes, I think I asked her to set it on 70 or something like that.

TS Well, why don't you show Mel the rest of the house?

HF I was going to say, "Let's go around this museum!"

MB Sure.

HF Right behind you, do you know what that is?

MB Is that Meeker?

HF That is Meeker done by my sister-in-law, who incidentally also was my brother's wife. My older brother married my wife's older sister long before we were married, and she fancied herself as an artist. As far as I'm concerned, you're supposed to sign pictures, but--

MB Elizabeth S. Fitch, 19--

HF Elizabeth Stanke Fitch.

MB Is that 1961?

HF I would guess it is.

MB U-huh.

HF She came, and she stayed here. I guess they stayed here a while. She tried to paint Meekers from here, but there were too many trees in the way. So, she went up to Meeker Park and set up her easel. She had kids here and kids there watching her, but everything worked out nicely.

MB That's great!

HF In other words that's Meeker Park taken from Meeker Park Lodge.

MB U-huh. That's pretty.

HF I like it very much.

MB U-huh.

HF The next one--can you identify that thing there?

TS

HF I think

TS Yes. That's really nice.

HF The University of Illinois was cleaning out their library of all old battered books, and they had a cart outside where the trashman would pick up the things. I picked up this book, and this envelope was in

HF the back cover of the book. The book was How to get to the Gold Fields of California. And the date was something around 1815. I threw the book away. I wish I hadn't. Even though it was in bad shape, it was interesting.

MB They have a lot of California identified over here. There are certain--not a lot--areas I recognize. I have my specs up in Estes. I'll squint at it here.

TS That's really a beautiful map.

HF Did you find West Virginia?

MB There was none at that time, was there?

TS No, just one big

HF You're certainly right. Of course, West Virginia came in during the Civil War, which was ten years later.

TS So, this was 1850's, this map.

HF Either 1850 or 1851.

MB A lot of Pennsylvania used to be Virginia, too, didn't it?

HF Well, it's not after the Mason-Dixon line.

MB No.

HF That's the one they fought over when the states were first formed, but after they had the Mason-Dixon line, I guess they agreed on it.

The thing that is directly below--that is one of the things that I--

TS U-huh, you mean that stock certificate?

HF Yes.

TS Where was Silver City? Is that the one that is in Nevada?

HF No, that's Arkansas.

TS Oh, Arkansas!

HF I don't know whether they ever had much gold there, but they had coal mines there.

TS This was your father's?

HF Yes.

TS Walter Fitch.

HF Walter Fitch was my father, and as near as I could figure out he used to take various and sundry things because people didn't have money to pay all the time. I know one time he had a colored man. He bought a high-wheeled automobile, which was sold by Sears Roebuck, for our use when my brother was fifteen and I was thirteen; and this colored man worked out his doctor bill, probably for delivering a baby, fixing up that thing so it would run. I've got some pictures of it. I think he got this thing as a trade for his services, and apparently it's an old
....

I took the stock certificate to Boettcher and Company a couple of years ago, and they said they've got the same thing in their offices down there. They said, "You might try going to the State of Arkansas." But they thought probably it was no good. My wife was always acquisitive, and she saw that among the family treasures somewhere. She said, "Who belongs to that?"

I said, "I don't know. Nobody seems to have claimed it."

She said, "Let's take it!"

TS Yeah!

HF And she did!

TS Well, the certificates themselves are worth something to collectors.

HF Well, that's what I had in mind.

TS Yeah, yeah.

HF I put a frame on it last year, and I hung it this morning.

TS That's really--I like those.

HF It isn't a thing.... It was an original.

TS Oh, no! Yeah, the Silver City Mining Company.

MB As far as the actual cash value of this thing, wouldn't it be the same as it would be for a collector's item?

HF I don't know.

TS This rug is interesting, too.

HF That's another one of my That old rug--my wife's father-- it must have been about 1890. My folks were married in 1892, and I think her folks were married a few years later. When her father was a young man working in Pueblo, he worked for the CF. He worked in the stores that the coal companies have around here and there. He took a vacation down to either New Mexico or Arizona, or maybe both. I don't know how he got that thing, but he came home with a big rug....

MB See where it's--

HF Doubled over that much. I had to double it to keep it in there then. The darned fools had it in their dining-room, under the dining-room table. They had mother and father, four kids, and a couple of grandparents, I suppose, tramping on that. Fortunately or unfortunately, it has a couple of big holes with some mending on it, but my sister-in-law who was--well, no, the brother was the oldest of all. But he and his wife Edith didn't know it was there or passed it up because his son never claimed the thing. My sister-in-law was the second, and she claimed it. She took it, and then she said to my wife one time after after we were married, "We move around so much (in that period) from here to there. I don't want to carry this darned rug around here. Do you want it?" My wife--just like that, she took it!

TS That's really neat.

HF After she was married, she took it; but after she had died, I found the thing in a tin trunk up in the attic. And I said, "That's a darned fool place for a thing like that!" I hung the thing here. So, then, the middle sister came up here. Of course, I'd known her for years and years and years. The first thing she said when she came in was, "Oh, you've got my Navajo rug! Next time I come up I want it." And she hasn't been back since. Thank goodness! That was the way my wife was if she could get anything at all.

Now, I have a sampler that goes back. It's my grandmother who made it when she was eight years old about 1820, 1830. I think it is over a hundred years old, and the same thing happened with that. Nobody seemed to claim it, and my wife said, "Let's take it."

TS Good!

HF And--

TS Do you still have that around?

HF Well, no, my daughter is an antique collector; and every time she came out here she'd say, "I wish you'd give me that sampler."

And I said, "It should go to the Fitch family." Of course, she isn't a Fitch any longer; and my daughter-in-law, Marilyn Fitch, in San Diego, has never expressed the slightest interest in antiques at all. Finally, about two years ago, I said, "Yes, Sue, you can have it. You take it along.... And she has it. Of course, she has it. It's framed.

TS Yeah, oh, yeah, One hundred forty, one hundred fifty years old, something like that would be great.

HF She has all the history of it. It's there.

MB Well, it's better to be with someone that's going to appreciate it.

HF Actually, that's what convinced me that she ought to have it because she

HF is a very careful collector. She collects mostly dishes and chinaware.

This is a birthday present as of last month. I found a bunch of old photographs. They were just mixed up, and I found this photograph, actually the photograph from which this was taken at the same time. Shortly after my daughter came out here, I said to her, "I would like to have that thing framed."

And she said, "There is somebody back in Bloomington, Illinois, that does that kind of work. If you want, I'll take that back there and have it framed." She had two of them framed just exactly alike, and she has the other one.

TS Ray, could I shut this light off?

HF Sure, go on.

TS Thank you. See this picture?

HF This is of my grandparents--Susan and Calvin Fitch. And this is of my two kids. Did I get in your way?

TS Oh, no, that's fine.

HF Susan and Calvin Fitch. It's their great-grandparents. This picture was taken, I would guess from the age of the kids, about 1946. This was--I had it hanging up here before--you've seen that?

TS But this is of your grandparents?

HF My grandparents.

TS Oh, that's great!

HF The only generation I don't have is my mother and father. I don't know whether they even had pictures taken.

TS Yeah.

HF And there is the other generation That was a Christmas present a year ago. That's my son and his wife and his son. That's the fourth generation.

TS They're lucky that you have all this stuff. I hope they appreciate how lucky they are that you collected all this stuff.

HF My daughter is that way. Oh, I don't know, my son's wife is a fine daughter. My wife used to say that she didn't appreciate old things. Marilyn's a very fine woman, but she is not particularly interested in culture. My wife said, "The only reason she married Cal was because she didn't want to be a farmer's wife; and that was the first chance she got! That may be true!"

Incidentally, I laid these out for you people.

MB Oh, yeah!

HF In the first place this is the famous book.

MB U-hm.

TS Well, what we were hoping to do was to take these down to Estes, go out and have some lunch, then go over to the museum where it's real nice and quiet, and then tape you as you look through some of these.

HF I'll show you what I have. This was World War I. Maybe it was before World War I. There's when I was a Boy Scout, when we made an airplane for an exhibit.

MB This says "17" here.

HF Nineteen seventeen?

MB U-huh.

HF O.K. It was during World War I, but actually I was just in high school at the time. This was during World War I. There's my brother in the SAT sea uniform. He was in a naval unit. I shouldn't have been in the army at all because I was still seventeen, but you know I paid to belong to the army! That's a regular army uniform. That's my father.

MB They said you had to be over 18, so you wrote eighteen on a piece of paper, put it in your shoe....

HF Actually, it wasn't quite that simple. The essence was that we were in army training four weeks. We were still, you see, in college. And this, I was in high school cadets. That was high school and first year of college. This was my wife when I was married.

MB Nineteen twenty-eight, Christmas Day, it says.

HF Good! I can't read those things.

MB You did a great job of labeling all those things.

TS Oh, yes, yes.

MB What I hate are things like my mother has, for example, great old albums of people that I know are related to me somehow, but I don't know who, when, or where.

TS Yeah, is there anybody who can explain it to you?

MB My mother has had a couple of strokes and doesn't remember a lot of things.

TS Yeah.

MB Beyond that they're all dead, so--

HF This was the 1925 National Championships. Those are a couple of well-known Olympic men who were running a year later. This was in San Francisco. What's the name of that stadium there? This was the --

TS Kezar.

HF Kezr, that's it.

TS Yeah.

HF This was Kezar stadium when it was just a wooden stand. So, this os the last one. That was a litho....

TS Can we take those with us then?

HF Yes, that's what I got them for.

TS All righty.

HF Now, do you ever take books?

TS Oh, sure.

MB Sure, both places do.

HF These are for the library. Several years ago I bought a package of six or eight youth books, and I managed to give them away to my nephews and nieces except that one. There's nobody that I could ever think of, and that's brand new. My kids are grown up, and I have great grandchildren. But they don't seem to be interested. It's the same for any of us except my granddaughter. She is, but she's still in college.

TS That's great.

HF You can have that. I was looking just a couple of days ago over my ..., and I found I had two copies.

TS

HF O.K.

TS I don't think we have High Towers, so we'll appreciate that.

HF Costain is a worthwhile writer.

TS Oh, yeah!

HF O.K. So, those are all. These are all to go.

TS O.K. All righty. Let me get your shoes and coat. We'll--

HF Yes, except that--if you want to see the rest.

TS Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah!

HF This is the original house. The kitchen is right here, but all of these cupboards I made, every single one of them.

MB Well, those look good. Then, that was your door to the outside?

HF That goes out--originally just steps down.

MB U-huh.

HF But I built a, well, several years later I built the porch there, a covered porch; and I had a work bench out there. But it's so darned cold I can't work there very much. Now, here is the new house.

MB Ah, your--

HF I said to the carpenter who built this place--he was an all-around carpenter, plumber, and everything else. I said, ""hat do we do with this window?" He said, "You got a lot of books around. Why don't you make a bookshelf out of it on this side?" I put the paneling on the other side, and it's worked out wonderfully.

MB Yeah, that's a perfect spot for a bookcase.

HF My wife was also conscious of the--

MB Genealogy.

HF She's got the Fitch one which is bona fide a little, and she's got the Stanke, which I guess was bona fide. They came over to New York City--or rather New Amsterdam and Long Island. They had a farm on Long Island. And, then, somebody else in her family--that's just a common name, a common Welsh name. She took their coat-of-arms because that was her family name.

TS Oh, u-huh.

HF So, I got those.

I've got my friend Bonnie, who has a fourteen year old son who is in high school in Estes Park. His father divorced his mother. He's a carpenter, and he learned carpentry from his father. I said that I wanted a place for my records. I had them just stacked on top of each other. People kept telling me, "That's no way to keep records." So, I think he did a really nice job.

MB Was that a school project then or--?

HF No, no.

MB Just his own.

HF Oh, I was paying him for it. Right now he's making little things for stamps, wooden boxes.

I don't know what you call that thing over there. I never did. My

HF fraternity asked me for about twenty years to be alumni "Man of the Year."

TS U-huh.

HF And I'll be darned if they didn't present me that in 1980, '81, whatever the date is.

TS Oh, that's beautiful! This is nationally?

HF This is a National Fraternity.

TS Yeah, and it's a national award then?

HF Yep, Delta Sigma Phi had their national office just north of Cherry Creek Shopping Center on Milwaukee Avenue.

TS U-huh.

HF And they had a meeting, sort of a luncheon thing at the Marriott Hotel South. Of course, I was invited to go; and I told them I didn't care particularly to go all the way down there. I was so tired at the time. You know what they did? They found out that my daughter was going to be here from Illinois, and they had their secretaries call her up to ask her whether she would come, would see that I got there, and not tell me that I was going to get an award at all!

TS Oh!

HF And that worked out. I got up there, and--

TS They surprised you, oh!

HF It wasn't until they started describing who the award was going to, then I said, "Hey, that must be me!"

MB So, that's Delta Sig, 1980, huh?

TS I think that's great.

HF I think it's great, too.

TS Oh, yeah! That's a beautiful plaque, too; and here's a certificate. You've had a lot of honors and awards, haven't you?

HF Well, actually, for getting second place at the Olympics, it really is something, just to show you what we've got.

MB Oh!

HF And this is my side. My wife left it up there, and she's been dead for twelve years.

TS And I'd say that is a --

HF People around here found out that I don't have a railing out here, and they're working on me to get a railing.

MB Yeah!

HF I will as soon as I get a carpenter.

MB Dangerous steep grade, shift to slow, slow! Two slows there!

HF Yeah, two slows! This, of course, is just a linen closet. And now, this was a regular carpenter. He did all this job so the two parts are entirely different.

MB Yeah, well, it shows the different times they were made.... You've got another bedroom back here.

HF This is the one my wife designed for herself. She preferred to sleep alone most of the time, and I prefer to use it for junk right now. But she wanted a closet, and she got it, designed exactly the way she wanted it.

MB That's good.

TS I haven't seen this series of books in so long! These are ones I read when I was in grade school and in high school, these Landmark History books. I don't think they publish those anymore--all those biographies of people.

HF My wife was a schoolteacher for a while until she had cancer and had a breast removed. She tried to go back and just couldn't, and so she had a lot of these. She had taught sixth grade.

TS Yeah, they're a great series.

HF And then I bought them because when my eyes were going bad, these--

TS Yeah, yeah.

MB Good print.

HF Good print, so they aren't all ones she bought. I bought a lot of them myself.

TS Yeah. Oh, no, that really is an excellent series.

This is really a good-sized house. It is. I didn't realize it went back this far.

MB It's bigger on the inside than it is on the outside!

HF Well, that's true, we built it for having people up here in the summer time. Now, my daughter, her husband, and also her son came up different times last summer. This is my granddaughter. I have three grandchildren and only one granddaughter. These are brother and sister.

MB Very pretty.

HF They're Italian-looking because their father's parents were first generation.... The name is Lamberta, which is rather an Italian name.

TS Yes.

You've got lot of stuff back here, Ray.

HF That's why I keep--oh, here's a Christmas present! Can you imagine what it is?

MB A candleholder.

HF No, it's smaller than a candle.

TS What is it? It's two different sized holes.

MB Pens!

HF Pens is right. Well, my nieces two children were thirteen and eleven; and while I was there, the boy became fourteen. So, we had a joint dinner for his birthday on December 14 when he was fourteen and for mine on December 16. We went to--did you ever hear of the Spaghetti Factory?

TS Oh, yeah, yeah, down in Denver.

HF We went there for dinner.

TS Oh, yeah, that's fun!

HF It is.

MB That's made out of birch?

HF I don't know. I didn't see how--this part must be birch. And his father is quite a --he's a schoolteacher, but he's quite interested in building things. He got a lathe, a whole lathe, and the boy learned how to use it.

TS That's neat.

HF For Christmas I get a little slip of paper. It says, "A penholder is due you when I get it done."

TS He finally got it finished, huh?

HF Yes.

I shall put my shoes on, and if you want to take a sack or two.... I can take my Olympic medals, but I would rather not.

TS Oh, no, that's all right. You can't put those on tape.

MB You can tell us about them. Of course, we have your diary, too, or a copy.

TS Yes.

HF You might be interested in knowing that I got two medals, but only ran in one race because in 1924--I don't think any other Olympics that I heard of--the French government gave every single competitor, whether they got last place or not, a medal that said he or she was in the Olympic games.

MB That's great. I think that would be a good tradition to do for everyone, for every country. But there are so many of them anymore. I don't know whether there are a lot more contestants now than there used to be or what.

TS I'm sure there are.

MB There must be.

HF Well, there's a lot more--

MB A lot more events.

HF A lot more events. For instance, girls ask me, "What did the girls do in the '24 Olympics? Well, there was no girls' track and field event in the '24 Olympics. There were girl swimmers, a girls' swimming team. See, the girls' events--girls' running, track and field events started in '28, four years later.

I wore these down to the doctor's office, and he said, "That's a good idea."

TS Yeah.

HF Because there is so much ice around, they are a little more helpful. I got them about five or six years ago to go jogging. Then, I couldn't jog. I was too tired.

TS So, instead you go out and move rocks all around your property!

HF Well, nowadays, in the city I just walk around the block.

TS Yeah.

HF But my brother, my older brother, is a retired physician. He says, "You ought to walk more; it's good for you." So, I try to do that. Alice, my niece, urges me to do that while I'm down there; but I don't have that urging around here. I won't walk as long as there is snow outside.

TS Yes. Did you get all your stone spread out though that you were working on this fall?

HF I thought it was spread out, but my friend spread it out more.

TS Yeah, yeah, he put a blade down on it Well, how many tons of rock did they drop here for you? What did you say it was--twelve tons of rock?

HF It was at least that. It came from the quarry down by Lyons.

MB Oh, yeah.

HF That is really good, very good. In fact, I've been writing articles. It's a good thing when you're a college professor to write articles. I was planning on writing an article on the quarry, but I never get around to it.

Last night I was looking around for my black jacket, and I couldn't find it anywhere.

Transcribing, editing, and final transcript: Lorraine Roberts
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INDEX

Allenspark, Colo., B Tape, 1
Estes Park, B Tape, 1,2
Fitch, Horatio "Ray," 1900-1985,
 Athletics, A Tapes, 3,4-23,24-25,29-31 B Tape, 11
 Birth, A Tapes, 1
 Career, A Tapes, 23-24,25-29
 Childhood, A Tapes, 2
 Education, A Tapes, 2-6,8,10,11
 Family, A Tapes, 1-2,3,24,26,27,28,29-30 B Tape, 1,2,5,6-9,10,11,12,
 13,14-15,16
 Marriage, A Tapes, 24 B Tape, 10
 Olympics, 1924, A Tapes, 13-23
Longmont, Colo., B Tape, 2,3
Ramey, John, B Tape, 1
Wagner, Sig, B Tape, 1,4
Water, B Tape, 4

(Interview with Horatio "Ray" Fitch, 1900-1985)